

All-in-all this is an excellent new edition which I think justifies the claim in the publishers blurb that this is 'more a sequel than a revision'. Although fairly brief it succeeds in being comprehensive. It is highly recommended for readers who want to be introduced to the subject and is essential reading for those already initiated but who want to be updated. I predict that it will prove popular. My review copy rapidly 'walked' after it arrived on my desk

and did not re-materialize until several departmental copies had been purchased.

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Books received

Adaptation. Michael R. Rose and George V. Lauder (eds). Academic Press, San Diego. 1996. Pp. 511. Price £24.95, paperback. ISBN 0 12 596421 8.

Metapopulation Biology — Ecology, Genetics and Evolution. Ilkka A. Hanski and Michael E. Gilpin (eds). Academic Press, San Diego. 1997. Pp. 512. Price £34.95, paperback. ISBN 0 12 323446 8.

The Study of Gene Action. Bruce Wallace and Joseph O. Falkinham III. Cornell University Press, Ithaca. 1997. Pp. 260. Price £13.50, paperback. ISBN 0 8014 8340 9.

Biotechnology and Plant Genetic Resources — Conservation and Uses. J. A. Callow, B. V. Ford-Lloyd and H. J. Newbury (eds). CAB International, Wallingford. 1997. Pp. 308. Price £49.95, hardback. ISBN 0 85199 142 4.